OUR REFORMERS, AND MARTYRDOW GENERALLY.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribone.

Bin: A word or two with you in respect to an extract in a recent TRIBUNE from The London Saturday Review, vituperative of a certain Mrs. JULIA BRANCH, who had somehow and somewhere, not mentioned, secreted her right " to love " when she plessed, and to bear children only

" wher eshe loved." I have no information of Mrs. Branch beyond what is conveyed in your paper, where she is styled a Free Lever; and I am also greatly uninformed as to who the Free Lovers, technically so called, are, and se to what is the scope of their movement. But if the observations of Mrs. Branch, as quoted in The Seturday Review, shed any light on the question, I hope we are all of us, in posses if not in esse, Free Lovers. At least I am sure that all persons who have been at all cultivated out of mere animality must inwardly approve that Isdy's posilies. There may be some recondite meaning in the seet which her language does not image, but its obvious import seems to me altogether imporent. Expects she had assumed the opposite position, and maintained her readiness to love, not where her will, but where her necessities physical and social constrained her, and to bear children, not where she leved, but where she was assured of having her bread and butter always provided her. We should have said, " Yes, such is the hardship of the time, and such is the degradation to which most women " are subjected; but what a shameless creature " this is to be contest with her position, sad di-" svow any higher ideal."

There is to be sure something very verdant to my mind in talking of "loring where one will." or where one "pleases," as if one were talking of some centract of outward service. For, as it seems to me with my limited instruction in such mestiers, the will has precisely nothing to do with Hem. A general love of the sex exists in every bosom, no doubt, as a basis of all our particular leves, and so long as we remain in savage or undeveloped conditions, this general love constitutes cur sole experience of love. But I should be corry to do Mrs. Branch the injustice of supposing that the is careful to legislate for that very pletheric interest. She unloubtedly means by love no mere animal appetite, but the distinctively human passion so named, the burden of all remance, the theme of all poetry, consisting in the jurely spontaneous accord of soul with soul. And over this passion the will has no power. It is simply a divine rapture, and to talk of enacting it where one will, or where one pleases, if we literally mean what we say, is flagrantly to reckon without one's host. Mrs. Branch is not so foolish, I am persuaded. She means to affirm the rightful supremacy of the human soul over the human body in every case, and especialty within the realm of Passion: neither more nor less. All the world will agree with her on this point before long. But meanwhile I am at a lose to understand with what propriety her critic pronounces her language to be "the very peminican of insolence and nastiness," and invites her to become a prostitute; unless the foulness of his mouth indicate the foulnets of his heart, and express his incorpacity to discern any good which is not strictly conventional.

I should except to Mrs. B, if I cared to do so at all, on another ground, which is not her sentiment, but her public avowal of it. I have never heard a syllable about Mrs. Branch, in the way either of praise or blame, and have no doubt she is a most modest and feminine person, when left to her own instincts; but the ease of publicity which we all enjoy in this happy republic too often betrays and falsifies the best people, by tempting them into the most groundless and superfluous heroics. No one can doubt that Mrs. Branch will act in all circumstances a truly womanly part, nor ever be willingly false to the bright ideal which snimstes ber. But why come before the newspaper public, to tell them eo? Why thrust one's private virtue upon public attention ! What effect has it but to inflame that already rabid appetite for personal gossip and scandal which is the curse of society all over the world. and the pauseous stock in trade, apparently, of too many of our American newspapers ! Mrs. Branch may say that there is no other way of enlightening public sentiment. I disagree with her. I think we have entirely outgrown the necessity of martyrdem, which was the necessity of an unscientific era. It is now a mere stupidity. We live in an age when every truth affecting human interests may be broadly declared in vernacular phrase, without parable or allegory-in good set scientific or universal terms, without personal allusion of any cort. In this state of things to set up for a martyr, appears to me highly pedantic at the very kast. It is like preferring manuscript to print, or lecomotion by stage coach to locomotion by railway. Any one that pleases may of course do so, but hang me if a penny of my carnings goes to build him a tomb. The martyr-temper was never a truly human one, even when it performed its grandest uses to humanity. It is still less so now. when all those uses may be vastly better performed at vastly less cost. Martyrdom was the highest expression of the moral life, but that life is now everywhere giving place to the spontaneous one, is which not truth but good reigns; and to insist upon still wearing its colors is only to insult the public sense. To be a martyr is so keenly to feel the supremacy of truth (which no fairly-develeped person at this day does), as to be willing to encounter dungeons and fetters and the stake itself rather than cease bearing public testimony to it. The martyre did of course an immense service to humanity in their day, and should have some suits ble endless memorial upon earth; but I much doubt whether they were in general likely to enjoy leaven. The heavenly temper is not one of martyrdem. I can't indeed imagine a more uncomfortable lot to a resconable Christian soul than to be eternally emparadised with a company of such high-strung, grim, unvielling zealots as the martyre usually were. The keavenly temper is one of sheer indifference to truth, except in to far as truth is animated by good. It is the exact temper of Jesus Carist. He despised the bestsupported and most miracalous body of truth the world over saw, simply because it was inwardly deveid of this vital good, or because it purported to make God a God of the Jew only, or of mankind

through the Jew, instead of the Jew through man-

hind. I know that our Uniterian friends have a

facey that they magnify the Christ by exalting him

hate a sort of chief of the martyrs. But this is put-

tire an unwarrantably low estimate upon the man

-one which he never countenanced in the least.

Se far from professing to be a mere witness of the

truth he claimed, right or wrong as you please,

to be the very truth itself, which all nature and all

history witnessed. Besides, he never displayed a

overmastering devotion to truth in the letter, to some literal symbol under which the Divine God temperarily obscures, and by obscuring reveals to self; but never to that Good itself. In fact, it is got Christ, but the Jawish patien which put him to death, that formabes the vividest embodiment of the martyr spirit the world has ever known. The history of the Jew has ever been a smoding martyrdom, for he has been steaffest to Truth, as no other nation has, and even set to some extent bugs the chains of that remora-less despotism. "Truth, or the paramount obedience "of the intellect," says a celebrated writer, "sinte " the soul to hell. Good, on the contrary, or the paramount oblidence of the heart, exalts the soul to beaven." This is often illustrated to our experience by the demineering and humiliating influence which extremely intellectual people exert upon us. They are usually of such a penurious make on their social or sympathetic side. to wide-awake to their own advancement on every oceasion, so full of pedantic exaction on this hand and on that, so full of sensitiveness to the world's approbation, so full in short of preternatural self-providence and anxiety, that we instantly feel ourselves sucked dry by their presence of our proper vital force, and are consequently driven to prefer the far less costly and more celestial company of common people, who, having no inflated relf-correciousness of their own, provoke no defensive insurrection of yours, but on the contrary being born simple lilies and ravens, are content to die simple lilies and ravens, without ever wishing to expand into gaudy and disgusting

THE PACIFIC RAILROAD. WHICH IS THE BEST ROUTE !- AN ARGUMENT FOR THE NORTHERN ROUTE.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribane. Sin: It is evident that the tide of emigration, which neretofore has flowed to California, is to be turned to the North-West. Already California has been emptied into the Frager River section. But, even though the mining there may not be equal to that of California, it is certain that gold exists, not only in the British deminione, but in Oregon and Washington. Three years age Californ's miners prospected in that region of our territory with good success. At Fort Colville, a Hudson's Bay establishment on the north fork of the Columbia, 25 miles from the boundary, and about 600 from the Pacific, several hundred persons were engaged in mining, and found the yield equal to the average of California diggings. Last year they were driven off by the ladiane. Sir Roderick Murchison has demonstrated that from the general formation of the Rocky Mounteins, gold will probably be found through all this region; but even if there had not been an ounce in all the territory, i's agricultural characteristics, its situation near one of the best harbors in the world, its immerse coal fields, its position in regard to Europe, would have made it attractive, and emigration would have gone there.

The discovery of gold has precipitated events. Twenty-five thousand persons, at the lowest estimate, have gone thither from California. The fever has begur, and it will be likely to continue. A large overand emigration may be expected from the States. Already trains are entering the Smith Pass, bound for the Columbia. It is a long and tedious journey, and the public are inquiring how it can be shortened, and are turning their attention to the facilities afforded by the Upper Missouri; but the hostilities of the Indiana will prevent emigration by that route for the present. and the tide will probably set still further north, and reach the Pacific through British dominions by the Red River route.

WHAT ENGLAND IS DOING

The discovery of gold in British Columbia, as the new bill before Parliament names the new province, has created an interest in England, second only to the Indis question, for it gives her a chance to make a bold stake in carrying out her system of " colonial policy," and in consolidating the British Empire-in the words of Lord Brougham "to preserve the connection of the different component parts of a great and scattered empire, and to coment the whole mass." "I must have ships, colonies, and commerce," said Nopoleon, when he was seeking the overthrow of England. "Render the colonies of England useless, or deprive her of them, and you break down her last wall, you fill up her last "most," said Talleyrand. England understands her dancer. She knows that her life depends upon her activity. She is the heart of a great empire, and it is her policy to draw vital blood to herself. To do that, she must open arteries, which shall be nearer to her own than to any other system. To this end she fosters a steam marine, and opens lines of inter-communiestion. Mr. Roebuck, in the debate on the charter of the Hudson's Bay Company a few days ago, said:

the Hudson's Bay Company a few days ago, said:

"The present state of the North American Continent is a matter of great interest to Eura and. If comething to not done as a counterpoise, the United States will overstudow not only England, but the whole earth. If England would but early out a sye ann is plan of columbration in the northern not of America, she wand enable the world for in other words, England 10 reasts what he believed would otherwise be the predominant power of the Argio-Saxon race in the United States. He believed that plans were already per pared for carrying a railway completely across the Continent to that a direct communication would be established between England and Vancouver Laland, by way of Halfrax. Such a scheme would unite England with China, and they would be enabled widely to extend the dividization of England."

This is evidently no idle dream, for the spirit of the debate was in accordance with these remarks. The prize is a great one. China, Japan, Cochin Coina and sm certain nearly one-half of the population of the globe, which, in the language of Mr. Martin, the Queen's late Treasurer at Hong Kong, "are searcely known to us: but our possessions in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean may be the means of opening the doors for extensive intercourse with those vast regiors." "British India," says Mr. M. again, "has remitted to England, during the last fifty years, in bullion and produce, \$750,000,000." And says Sir Charles Forbes: "The wealth which England has ob tained from the natives of India would at compound interest pay off the national debt. If communityin is opened across the Canadas, she will be by steam from China, by the different routes, distant as fol-

ficiently accurate to show that England can afford to enter upon the construction of a railway line across the Canadas, when the wealth of China is the prize.

OUR POSITION. As Americans—as citizens of a country which has rital interests at stake—the matter claims our attention. Has England more to gain than we? Is it wisdom to be indifferent to her scheme for making the world pay tribute to her commercial policy! Sooner or later we shall have a railroad to the Pacific, but ucless we stop talking and commence the construction of a line, we shall lose the prize. If we spread out the map of the Profic coast, we see but two good harbors on the whole live from Panama to the Russian presessions-San Francisco and the Strait of Fura. It is evident, therefore, that whatever railroad lines are constructed must converge to these two points. They are the converging points of the only two river systems on the western coast, where all the wealth that travels to and from the interior must pass. In either of the bays a the vessels of the world might rife securely land looked. Here, ther, at these two points, must the fleets of the Pacific, in all coming time, receive and discharge their cargoes, and here must great cities exist. Aleady San Francisco has become one; but shall England or Americs claim the metropolis of the Northern Panific, and with it the trade of the Columbia Valley, and of all the north-western quarter of the Northern Hemisphere, and the Asiatic trade for the Mississippi Valley and the Northern Atlantic slope? Which country, we sek egain, shall have it ? It all hangs on one contingency : the nation that first carries a railroad from Lake Su-

wherever the fire strikes the Parific waters there will be the metropelis of the North-West. Ne proposition can be more plain. Is the prize worth striving

In Congress, first and last, the advantage to be derived from a Pacine Railread through the South Pass has been amply set forth; little, bowever, has been said of the extreme Northern route, because it was so for north, and because its termions is so far from San Francisco: but now the aspect of affairs is changed, the public are applieds to know about

THE ROUTE FROM LAND SUPERIOR TO THE PARIFIC. The late Secretary of War. Mr. Jefferson Davis,

thus suggested the advantages of this route: The advantages are, its low profile, its energy grades and small amount dissociations and exactic, both important if the road should be developed to its full working power: the great extension west of my profile hinter, in the simples of timber over the wettern half of its numer the fit inties which the common filter and its aribin tables and the Missouri will affect for the construction of the road in the short distance from the Missouri of the road in the short distance from the Missouri of the parish; the western terminus being fluxer to the post of Asia has the terminus of other roader in the proximity of the Asia than the terminus of other router in the proport eastern terminus to Lake Superior, from which a co-naviast in of was going wavels extends to the Adam and in the existence of coal on Puget Sound."

Its direction from St. Paul is north-west, on the plateau that divides the Missouri from the waters rusning north into Hudson's Bay, to the great bend of the Missouri, where it strikes the river, for one haddred and fifty miles, leaving it at Milk River, and hitting the mountains at Lewis and Clark's Pass, a distarce from St. Paul of about 1,100 miles. To this place the route is as level as the Illanois Central Rellroad. There is no grade greater than thirly feet to the mile, which, as concerns railroads, is considered souleslent to a dead level. It is a well-watered prairie, with fertile valleys and groves of cottonwood, where no snows fell. The grass is green the year round, and heres of wild herees room the plain, not leaving it through the year. "At Fort Besice," says Gov. S'evers's report, "there are large hords of cartle and horses, which are not stabled in the Winter, but "obtain their own living, and remain fat." The valley of Milk River is described as being one of the richest on earth. The temperature of the region is that of Hinoir, the thermal line of Chicago running far

There are nine passes at the head waters of the Missouri, nearly all practicable for a railroad. Sx of these debouch into the valley of the Bitter Root River, of which five are practicable for a railroad. Too hitle

Bischfeet Pare is thus described:

It is remarked; say. The Iraian trull is a well-we said is pariently previousle for wagner. The dividing ris

The country is so level that in March a journey was made with a wagon from Fort Benton to Cantonment Stevers, 256 miles, in twelve days. The inclination is so gradual that the wheels were not looked in the descent. "The eastern approach," says the report, "is practicable with a grade of from fifty to sixty feet to the mile; the passage of the ridge is with a two mile tunnel, and the western descent is by a grade of thirty feet per mile." This is upparalleled. The passage of the Bine Ridge, on the Baltimore and Onio Road, is accomplished by a tunnel 4,000 feet in length, but by a grade of 116 feet per mile for 17 miles. On the Pennsylvania Central there are gradients of 95 feet per mile for 94 miles. On the Virginia Central Reil way, trains pass daily over a grade of 275 feet per mile, distance two miles. On the Western Massachuset's Road are grades of 83 feet per mile. By adopting heavier grades, the length of the turnel may be not only reduced, but it may be avoided. A two-miletunnel in limestone rock is a small work when compared with the tannels of Europe, or that of the Hoosack Mountain pow in progress. In descending the mountains into the Blackfeet Valley, there is no grade exceeding twenty-two feet per mile. Thus easily the mountains are crossed,

and Gov. Stevens adds:

"It is not counted there are other passes in this position of the Rocky Mountain range even better than those explored. They are indicated by the general depression of the menticinary, with the presses frequency of the meaning cathodread into the great plain of the Counted and the Counted and

On the entire line from St. Paul or Lake Suprtior to Paget Sound, there is no grade exceeding sixty feet to the mile! There are no expensive viaducts or costly bridges. The distance, as surveyed from St. Paul to the Sound, is eighteen hundred miles, in round numbers, which Gov. Stevens informs us can, without doubt, be materially reduced. COMPARISON OF ROUTES.

A comparison of distances from the Lakes and the Mississippi to the Pacific in round numbers is as fol-

lows:

It is well known to all who have anything to do with are to be avoided if possible. In this respect the com-

parison of ascents and descents on the different routes are as follows:

The mountain passes are elevated as follows:

Each route has the following number of miles at an elevation of more than 4,000 feet above the sea: Memphis route 127 miles
South Pass 1,222 miles
S. Paul 123 miles Miles elevated 3 000 feet:

Memphis.
South Pass
St. Paul

Practical railroad men alone know the value of leve restes. The wear and tear and increased expense on routes of high elevations and short curvatures are excessive. Therefore, in economy of operation, the route from St. Paul stands far ahead of all others.

OBJECTIONS.

Mr. Secretary Davis in his report enumerates the following objections to the route from St. Paul: D filcult construction of the mountain region, including the turnel; delay in construction; liability to freehets on the branches of the Columbia; severe and long wisters on the prairies east of the mountains; distance of its western termieus from Sin Francisco; proximity to the frottler of a powerful sovereignty. These are all the objections. As to difficulty of construction, take his own comparison with the other lines:

Score by Sours Pass - Its difficulties are the courte con other along the Section atte. He miles the courte in

ravites."

"Merrors Bourn - Its disadvantages are its greater length from the Massasippi to the Perrin; the apparently rough wid unbroken character of the country through which much of it has its much greater out, and the steater number of its ascents and descents, which would be returned only character through the fail world power of the send be developed."

There is snother route from Fulton to San Pedro. hat as that does not reach either the Strait of Voca of San Francisco, it is not necessary to notice it here. The disadvanteges of the St. Paul route are by the Secretary himself shown to be smaller than those by the other routes. In regard to snow upon the St. Pan route, the Secretary shall speak for himself:

The evidence addited by Governor Stevens shows that no obstancian te a railread need be sparohented from snow across the plains or through the passes of the in matrix. The greatest average day in the mountains from the Thind Stevens of the internation of January was only twolve trokes over the divide. A trick of January was only twolve trokes over the divide. A trick expected for a wagon or a railread would not have been for momended at may point with over a fact of snow the entire width in

Gov. Stevens says: " One foot is a common depth and three feet is an extraordizary depth in the Rocky Mountains. In the coldest days of Winter the thermemeter goes down to a low point in the mountainsas low as at Mentreal. At Fort Bentos, near the bue of the mountains, the average Winter temperature is that of Madison, Wissersin. The plains east of the mountairs, which are represented to be seterrible. cannot be very severe, otherwise the horses would hardly "grow fat " without being stabled.

It is plain that the obstacles on this route are far less fermidable than on any other route. There is nothing whatever to prevent the construction of one of the brace of the martyr-spirit, which is one of intense | perior to the Strait of Puen will secure the prize, for | facet roate on the martyr-spirit, which is one of intense |

CAN IT BE DONE! We can form some estimate of our ability to do a thirg by looking at what we have dene:

In 1852 we built 1861 miles of read. In 1855 we built 1748 miles of road. In 1856 we built 1,49 miles of road. In 1856 we built 1,49 miles of road. In 1856 we built 5,175 miles of road.

Total in five years, 15, 152 miles of cond. In 1850, there were 7,355 miles of railroad in operation in the United States; now there exmot be less than 30,000 miles in operation and 10,000 under way, costing short \$776,000,000. Of this amount, in 1856, the country was indebted about \$300,000,000. The entire amount of stock and bonds held in fereign hands was \$81,000,000 only ! If, in 1856, the occurry put nearly ,600 miles in operation, there need be no hesitency in regard to our ability to construct during the next two or three years 1 600 miles, even though it be through an ursettled country a portion of the way, especially when more than half of the distance is as easy of con-

struction as roads in Himels and Wisconsin! The route from St. Psul is already under constructien. A company is chartered and in operation, aided by land grants, to construct a road from St. Paul to the function of the Bois de Sloux with the Red River of the North, a distance toward the Pacific of 237 m les, leaving less than 1,600 miles to be provided for.

PACILITIES. The route is reached by ravigable waters at a great many points-from the Mississippi-from the Red River-from the Missouri, Milk, Moose, Marais, Clark's Ferk and the Columbia, and from Poget Sourd. Shert spur roads might be constructed, branching from the Missouri to the main line, ten or even twenty miles, and thus the whole line could be out up into shere sections, where supplies could be received. No other route has such advantages. The Missouri is navigable for steamboats to Fort Benton, almost to the base of the mountains, and more than half the way to Puget Sound. Tunber and stone can be readily reached this side of the mountains, while on the west side it stands for half the distance on the ground. Rule and chairs from the forges of Philaburgh and St. Louis can be shipped on steamers for all the sections east of the mountains. The most difficult section can be commanced sham tarecastly with the other sections, being reached from both sides by water ourriage. The distance from the pavigable waters of the Columbia to the navigable waters of the Missouri is less than 400

miles.

It will be seen by any one who reads carefully the report of Gov. Stevens, that the late Secretary of War has assumed that the country through which the soute passes is for the most part unichabitable. Tais is done not only without facts to support the assumption, but in opposition to the whole tenor of the report. Much of the country is exceedingly rich and produtive, well watered, and abundantly empolied with timber. The tributaries of the Missouri are all bordered by fertile valleys. It is known that Minnesots is arable quite to its western boundary, and that all through the section, to the Great Bend and Fort Benton, tractacoa. taining four or five thousand square miles exist which are as fertile as Iowa, to which State the country bears much resemblance. There are no finer wheat lands in the world than these on the Milk River. Near the nesses of the mountains the surveying party mat a party of Indians with about 1,000 horses which have no stabling in Winter. This is the great buffalo region, the only region on the continent where buffelors are to be found in great herds. The region immediately he yend the pass is like that of Vermont, with all nestons mostior. We quote from the report on the route from Hellgate Pass to the Carne d'Alene Musion:

"Out 10 - Continued in the valley ten unless, road lead through woods. Leach and sprace and inexhaustitle supplied innextone and mattle worse met with. We atterward found latter in nood quantities all through the mannaists. Disks made to-day (with wagon train), nineteen and a half miles."

There is no need to speak of the productiveness, the timber, the water-power of the Columbia, for the public know that there is no section of the country which surpasses it. On Puget Sound are inexhaustible coal fields. All the coal consumed in California is sent down from the Sound. Hence the advantage of the Strait of Fucs for being for all time the post of the Pacific for eleam-versels.

What, then, in brief, are the advantages of this route? It is the shortest, easiest and chespest that can be found. I connects the Pacific and the river system of the Columbia with the great river system of the Mississippi, the Lakes and the St. Lawrence. It at once opens a way to the Northern Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico. It brings New-York five days nearer to Sharghae than by any other route. It will be the shortest route between London, Paris, Hamburg and Chins. Lat it be constructed, and it will give Americs the carrying trade of the world. Let it be entered upon at once, and completed before Englan constructs a rival line, and the metropolis of the North-West will be ours. There never was a more golden opportunity than this. Shall it be lost ! the country consider the question well; let the report of the survey be studied by men who have means and hands and hearts to engage in the work, and they will wonder at what nature has done for us in breaking down the Rocky Mountains into hillocks, that America may make the highway of the world.

ARE FISHES SPONTANEOUSLY GENERATED?

To the Editor of The N. V. Tribune. Sin: In your WEEKLY of Aug. 7 is a report of the proceedings of the American Institute Farmers' Club. for Aug. 2, in which I find the following item:

"Do werms rain down ! A person at Angels, Ind. who counce that we talk about all sorts on miscellage-cus masters here, wants us in the absence of more im-pertant questions to talk about this. Do had, worms 'and smell toads, such as see often seen after a shower, 'in places where it seems they must actually have fall-'en with the rain, actually come from the clouds!'
Dr. Waterbury replied, they do not: it is ene of the
popular errors which are so hard to eradicate."

Now I am one of those who hold the opinion here so naively ye'ept "popular error," and f that opinion be errenecus, I certainly want it eradicated from my

If the Deeter and the learned Clab his associates will explain the following and many similar facts that are constartly coming to the knowledge of the people, more consistently with any other theory than the one we have embraced, I will cheerfully adopt that theory: In June lest, a very heavy shower occurred in the north part of the town of Lesie, in the County of Inchem. In this State-a place remote from lake, river or pond-and, after the shower, fish of different varieties, and varying from one to three inches in length, were found scattered over the ground in great abund ance. So plenty were these wanderers from the deep that two children, in going from the school-house to their bomes half a mile distant, picked up their dinnertail rearly full along the road. Others preserved montifies of them alive in barrels of water.

I was not an eye-witness of this strange phanomenan. but have taken pairs to get correct information, and can give full particulars, including the names of many reliable wi nesses, if any one is skeptical enough to lesire it. I am told a similar commerce took place obsequent to this in the town of Altion, Colnoun Courty, and snother in the previous month in the towe of Tampkine, Jackson County.

I inclose a slip from The Juckson Patriot, containing a letter from Prof. Sager of the State University, in reference to the shower of fish in Tompkins, and what purports to be an extract from a letter from Dr. Pitcher of Detroit, both indorsing the " popular error."

We see a great people out West here, and sometimes tell great fish stories, and may embrace great errore; but we are not disposed to abandon our opinions as errors because a learned Doctor in New York burns up his ness at them, while facts like the above remain

neezplained. Respectfully and truly yours. P. S .- Perhaps some of thees fish yet remain collected in a pool by the readside, and if thus found by O. S. Marray of Warren County. Onle, won d certainly disprove the Bible secourt of creation, and fully prove is therry of spentaneous generalita.

Crops.-Wheat poor, ball a crop; oate poor, bay good, corn good, fruit none at all. L. H. J. Coper, Kalamasce County, Mich , Aug 24, 1888.

[Here follows the article from The Jankson Patriot, above refered to:]

The Shower or Fish.—A gentlemen of this city forwarded specimers of the fish which were found after a heavy rain in Temphine Township, in May last, to Prof. Sager of the State University, who accounts for the singular phenomenon as follows:

Draw Six: Your note of the lefth into came to hand yesterday.

Incolved the second bothe of hish, and recognized them as a species of much mirrow (flydargyrs). I be to thenk you for the six ement of term in relation to the nonural event described in the lefter and new paper parsonable. Notwithstanding some doubts arising from the elevation of bothes of so large size, I must confess myself unable to imagine a tree plausible broadents to myself unable to imagine a tree plausible broadents. found, and the elevation of bodies of so large size. I must confess
myself unable to incume a norm parable hypothesis than that
perpolarly adepted, and That they must have been carried up inthe cand by a fer also or water sport, and distributed by the
registerize is of whol. That the sportes might continue to said
whin enveloped in a dones amorpher of mist it water, including
somphic be transported several mices at the registrate of a bornaon, I think is not doubtfull but that a mass of water a first or
more, I may be, in depth, should be thus elevated, is more
problem strat—I will not say impacticable, yet the assumption
in which we was so furnish the only possible explanation of the
incite stated.

to stated.

I am happy to add that my frierd Prof. S. F. Baird, of the althornton lastitution, concurs with me in this mode of expla-

nation.

If there were any other specks a fish differing from those sent, I should be happy to get a few specimens in abouted, for the parpose of a more careful comparison with those or this vicinity, more expected has a correctly examination has led me to think that the species has not hitherto been described by naturalists. I would also like to transmit a few to the Sanchamian institu-

With many apolicy'es for the delay in replying to your unte, I am respectfully yours, &c., AB'M SAGER.

We are she permitted to copy the following from a efter written by Dr. Pitcaer, of Detroit, upon the

rubject:

"In a level and inland country like ours, such a phenomenon as that described in the entract from The Patriot is very fective, alle, and at first view not easily explained. Such things occur along the eastern face of the Alleghary ride, in its sources through viralina and be Carolinas, where water spines, which from in the creat continuous to these States, areas against the mountains and deposit that of considerable magnitude. These fain have no direct been elevated from Luke Etie by a similar process and carried in land during some of the extraordinary atmospheric in ventoral we have bein during the last mostle, and deposited upon the hight of land in this section of the Penniss s."

Remarks .- We could wish that Mr. Jones and other observers and recorders of natural phenomera would observe the salutary rule of recording facts simply as facts-as accurately, lucidly and fully as practicable, leaving inferences to be drawn by these more competent to weigh those facts and collate them with all that is already known. We dissent entire y from Mr. Murray's rash conclusion that the facts above stated, "certainly disprove the Bible account of creation." They do nothing of the sort, as we have already indicated in our note on Mr. Murray's statement. Profs. Sager and Baird and Dr. Pitcher all concur in the view taken by us-that there is nothing like spontaneous generation in the premises and dissent from the corclusion of Messis, Murray and Jones. We are widing here to rest the case, simply observing that he wie, while recording a phen menon, undertakes to make a partisan use of it, damages his own reliability as an observer by betraying a motive for doc-

toring the facts. We regret that is neither of the cases now before us does any effort seem to have been made to preserve alive some of the fishes in question, so that their growth might have been watched and their species determined by naturalists. Even Messrs Murray and Jones must admit that the fact-if it be a fact-that they belong to well known species, must greatly streng ben the probability that they were generated as fishes usually have been. It they had originated sponts cously, their species would very probably have been unique, being determined wholly by the circumstances under which they were called into being, which can hardly be precisely like those which attended any former [Ed. Trib.

MINNESOTA.

HER NEED OF A USURY LAW.

To the Editor of The N. V. Tribune. Sin: Inches in The Thinung of Aug. 27, a letter from your correspondent D , who exults in the fact that the Governor vetoed the bill passed by the Legislature of Minresota, providing for a law against Usury. D. sta'es that the Governor did so, knowing it to be for the interest of the State, and in accordance with the wishes of the people. It seems that the members of the Legislature representing a majority of the inhabitante were of a different opinion, and believed such a law would be acceptable to their constituents, and contribute to their well-being. Of course the advocate of free trade also denses it to be understood that he consults the welfere of the people generally, and not merely his own and that of a few money lenders. But low are the interests of the farmers and of the other producing classes subserved by this unrestricted trade in the standard of value ! What effect has it really upon the prosperity of this young State?

The ordinary rate sef interest in Minnesota have ranged between 12 and 36 per cent per annum, averaging probably not less than 25 per cent; and on notes overdue, secured by mortgage of real estate, it has not been un common to demand and to give 5 per cent a month until the payment was made. A clause to that effect is frequently inserted in notes or mortgages as seemily for the purchasl dischasse of the dabts. Doubtless higher rates than these have been paid on many lears; but these higher rates seek the obscurity of conficential bargains, and the most ardent expounders of the doctrine of free trade in noney would not him to have them too rudely thrust before the public view. The borrowers are principally farmers, mechanics and merchants; the lenders chisily a comparatively few parsons, radding mostly in the towns and villages, who have been able to carry with them to this new section of the country considerable sums, or who have induced Eastern capitalists to able sums, or who have induced Eastern capitalists to lean many there. The leaders demand ample security: and every one knows that it requires far more property to secure a lean bearing 30 per cent interest that one bearing 10 or 15 per cent. A murgage upon property worth double the amount, whice, with interest at 7 per cent, is considered good security for a lean, would not make a mortgage bearing 30 per cent safe, except for a very short period. The interest compounded aroundly—and it is not unusual in Minnesota to compound or to pay it quarterly—would in two and a quarter years equal the principal; and if the interest is over, it would at the entration of that perfects the over. It would at the entration of that per terest lie over, it would, at the expiration of that pe-ried, take the full value of the property to activity the debt. Consider the requisition that such a rate of in-terest makes upon borrowers: they must invest the maney in such a way in their farms, their manufac tures or their business, that the value of these shall be more than doubled every two years to enable them to pay their interest and make any profits. They do not buy the money but only the use of it; and they must pay every two, three or four years, according to the ray of interest, a sum in money to the lender equal to the amount borrowed, and must also return the prized the amount borrowed, and must also return the prized two about the rise of the lakes. Twenty-four or the amount borrowed, and must also return the prized two about the rise of the lakes. pal when it becomes due. Let a country be as fertile pal when it becomes due. Let a country be as fertile and as productive in every way as it may, how long can any but yelf armers and mechanics stand up under such a far upon their labor! The lenders who receive these scormous gains perform little if any useful labor. there enormous going perform little if any useful labor. They merely load money, which they have in many cases borrowed from the East at 8 or 10 per cent per annum, to the producers, and receive from 15 to 20 per cent and upward for satisfying themselves with per cent and upward for satisfying themselves with

her cent and upward for satisfying themselves with
the securities and plating their mortgoges on repord.
At these rales, not many years will slapes before
the money-lenders of Misraeota will also be her land-holders, and the great body of the people will be at
work to pay to them the rents on the lands as well as the interest on the money. They virtually pay excoefficients the state have through the interest on mortgage. No plan could be devised more effectually and more dissortiusly to gather the lands and the wealth of the State in a few hands than unrestricted and consequently excibits at rates of interest on money. The more shrawd of the lenders do not now panely riving in value, but lean money to its occu-pants, knowing that large portions of it will by and by inevitably pass into their hands through the fore-closure of mortgages. What then becomes of the farners, mechanics and laborary who farmers, mechanics and leborers, who, except for a homestead law, would be driven out of all toeir por sessions, permittee? Is their welfare of less import what a suicidal State policy is that which neglects to eract he need have for the projection of this class of cit new, and leaves them a proy to ruinous exactions. If it were not that Mintenota is a new and ferman such as the second of the contract has a new and ferman such as the second of the the State, with great natural resources, toot her people are bardy, exterprising and resolute, such rates of 1 o clear to the error Ownhams detects in my interest could not possibly obtain not because lend. statement of the evaporation beng equal to the mater

ere, under the present system of numerical ma-would not exact the numer, but simply because there is a limit to human industry and to the capabilities of nature which the power of the lender cannot compet the laboring cases to exceed. This limit, which is the isboring cases to easest. This hant, which is already meaning itself manifest, while by and by campulate the leaders to abate their demands, which, unless to beneficent or mpulsion of a legal rate and an adequate usury law be laid upon them, they will do just estar as they think will suffice to let tohir betrovers and tenents live and keep at work to pay their unter

But the lenders say, the risks of louning money are But the lenders say, the risks of leaning money we great; we are not suce our money will be returned; a us punctually, and we must be paid liberally for the barrar we frequently irour to a commodate for mer, mechanics and others who are anxious to berroe of us. But if they should loss a lower rates, then morey and the fatness upon it would be far aske, for a man many be able to pay 8 or 10 per cent interest, when no or 30 per cent would absorb all his earning and executally make hon backups. Professed landers of morey are rately victims to any great antert of a misplaced confidence in the ability of third deters to pay. If they do not in all case get the 30 per cent or other high rate agreed upon, they are Bi per cent or other high rate agree 1 mgos, come 30 per cell of some compromise, or by furchase, or the sale of securities, to get their principal and a rate per cent which compensates them for their rouble

rate per cent which comparates seem for their readle and anxiety in lencing their movey.

The law fixing the rate of interest for banks at 15 per cent will have little effect to reducing to coneral rates, as D. parcetves. A favored few will have from them at the legal rates to re lead at higher case, secondary to private agreement, and the propio generally will gain but small advantage from so end to

get early will gain but small advantage from an equit-ment sanc ioned probably as a convenient and chasp concertion to the demand of the public.

The establishment of a legal rate of interest, even so high as 15 per cent, and of a stringent unrylaw, which should readly operate to coter lenders from problems with the accessing of borrowers, would have there raids: The producers of he state could have there raids: The producers of he state could barrow morey at a rate which would not so quickly impover-ish them; their lance and property of every descrip-tion would pass much less rapidly into the hands of money lenders; they would have as much capital to money lenders they would have as made expent to use, and would retain in their own posteroins, as the reward of their labor, all the interest above 15 per cent which they now give to expiralists. There seed be no alarm lest the supply of money should strong lenders for Eastern and resident lenders would did trongless more recurse; and 15, or 12 percent, is certainly should higher then the rates in the clider States to make the loan of mixely in Minnesota an etractive in wellings. The binds of the State hearing but 8 per first for how in the New-York market a considerable premium; sold in the New-York markets considerable premium; so that even the advance of I per cast above our carrent rate is ample indicement for leaders to invest when they are satisfied with the sections. A made lower tate than 15 per cent would be greatly for the permanent advantage of Minmaste. Every refrection of the rate of interest is a direct benefit to the great body of her people, and does no injustice to the leaders of meney, who are now, for want of a satisfied law, enriching the medium at the expense of her producers. enriching themselves at the expense of her producers,

THE LEVEL OF THE LAKES.

To the Editor of The N. Y. Tribune.

Sin: I am gratified that so accurate and scientify an observer se Dr. Dewoy, of the Rochester University, has recorded his facts on the rise and fall of water in Lake Ontario, in his letter to you of the lith I regret, however, that such record does not repre-

sent the level of the present year as confrasted with that of several years past at the same date, that the present increased hight of the water over its lowest depression at any given time may be unferstood, and which the government officer, who keeps the register,

which the government officer, who keeps the registar, does not record in the table presented by Dr. Dawsy.

I am deficient in accurately recorded measurements by feet and tuches in Lake Erie and the Nisgara River; but of water marks I have many to wittens the facts stated in my communication referred to by Professor Dewey. He says that "Lake Ontario is but "seren inches higher than in October 1857, the nignest being heavily that the seren inches higher than in October 1857, the nignest being heavily and the seeson of high water for the year, during any one of those eleven years, or any previous year, which is important in accertaining the extense of the Lake, which might show the difference of five or ax feet, as I have stated.

In 1838 or 39, the late Alfred Barrett, of Lougorf, then Resident Eegineer of the Western Section of the Eric Canal, instituted a series of examinations relative to the rise and fall of Lake Erie, on which to base certain levels connected with the culsagement of the Eric Canal, then about to be commenced at this point; and to prove them on Lake Erie he procured an examination of Lake Octario near the mouth of the Main-instituted by that of the present year, Lake Ontario stood at the maximum hight of near six feet above the lowest depression (for the season of high water) of some years before; thus showing the flactuations of Lake Ontario to be greater than Lake Erie, the asteral consequence of its smaller area than the latter, with no increased width of outlet by the St. Lawrence. ral corse quence of its smaller area than the latter, with no increased width of outlet by the St. Lawrence. This report of Mr. Barrett was made to the Canal Commissioner, and published in their cell isla report of the year, now on file in the Canal office at Albary.

That the present elevation of Lake Ontario is but

even inches above that of last October is easily accounted for by the fact that the lakes all rose rapidly uring the Spring, Sammer and Autumn months of the ear 1857, by reason of the extraordinary fall of snow in the Winter of DEG 57 and the rains of 1857, making at aggregate of 57.48 inches against the average of 38.89 - an increese of about fifty per cent—according to the statement of your correspondent "Owahgens," in The Tresure of the 5th inst. (Dr. Dewey does not give the precent elevation of Outsio above that of June or July in 1857, which, I presume, will show less than in Out ber, as the lake was constantly on the rise them in Out, ber, as the lake was constantly on the rise them in the season. than in Out ber, as the lake was constantly on the residency industries throughout the season.) Consequently, the great beds of the lakes were continually awailing up what is extraordinary impouring of the streams of their buint, taking mouths to fill to their maximum laws. Think, explains the present elevation of the lakes as plainly as the flood in any common brock or river after an ordinary rain; and I come reason why the exist-ordinary rive or tail of the lakes should be imputed to any other agency than that of an ordinary rain, west their formetion and geography are properly under-

Dr. Dewey says: "The lakes seem to be under very Dr. Dewey says: "The lakes seem to be under very singular laws, a discovery very difficult of reception and belief by multitudes." I do not see any "singular laws, "either natural or artificial, in their government, as is evident from the causes which we, in common, admit, other than from the possible fluctuations in the immense springs, which I suggested may feed the field of the upper lakes—Superior, Michigan and Haron—and which, by the way, Owabgeon controverts. That the traditional perioducial elevations and degreesions, to which both Dr. Dawey and myself have referred may confuse the subject in the minds of those who do to which both Dr. Dewey and myself have referred may confuse the subject in the minds of takes who do not investigated, is possible. Indeed, on referring to his private letter to me, to which herefers, Dr. Dewey

in private letter to me, to which he reters, Dr. Dewey in frentially admits my position, that the upper laked may be fed by those vest subject and springs. I cannot argue this subject with Owahgeau, because, alineugh he may be correct in in theory that the water shed "of every basin must be the bouchary of the supply of any spring which may feed its collections of water, there still may exist broad basins beyond at a much hables execution. a much higher elevation, whose waters, for want of a surface everpe, may sick and find an outlet through immense hause of rock or earth in the beds of the lower hause to strangely filled, like the woper laket. The subject is so broad and problematical test I will

twenty-fire years ago, after peshaps a dozen large forwarding warehouses were built on Buffalo harbor, where two or three of the earlier ones had shoot love many years without inconvalence from high water, every one of them had to be raised three or four feet, because the water came up on a level, above the pround floors, and damaged the goods in them; and werehouses firee built have been on a higher level even than that to which those were then rated. Siece then, the water in the narrhy, at times, has need six or seven feet on a level below those floors. Now his

creared the feet.

A gentleman vesteriay told me that last week to was on the st. Lawrence, just below the Toourand Planck, and was there shown rocks which and is some years, stood four feet out of water, now covered emirsty with the standing flood. Another, just retarded from Reskault and Outdeadaurch, on the St. Lawrence. from Brockville, near Ogdensburgh, on the St. LAW

depends remembet on its width and the velocity of current, in its rice and depression, as affected by the step of water in the lake of which it is the outlet. The Ningara river just below Lake Eric, is not fall-ing—its level being four inches less than its maximum a month ago.

To obtain an accurate level of the Lakes, it should To obtain an accurate level of the Lakes, it should be marked in calm weather, two or three days after the subsidence of any considerable wind, as an easterly wind may depress their lavels at one end and raise them at the other, or the opposite, by throwing the water back or forward. Our violent Autoromal gales have sometimes raised Lake Erie at Buffalo six feet in a few hours, but harely ever holding that extraordinary elevation for twelve hours.

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I declare to the erter Ownheens detects in my